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FORBIDDEN TALES OF
DARK MANSION
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NO. 8
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FLY, MY PET! SUMMON THOSE WHO DO NOT FEAR TO ENTER MY REALM--THE REALM OF MYSTERY AND SUSPENSE.
BRING ME THOSE WHO ARE NOT TIMID--THOSE WHO YEARN FOR FRIGHTFUL CHILLS...FOR ONLY THE FEARLESS SHALL BE ALLOWED TO ENTER... THE DARK MANSION!

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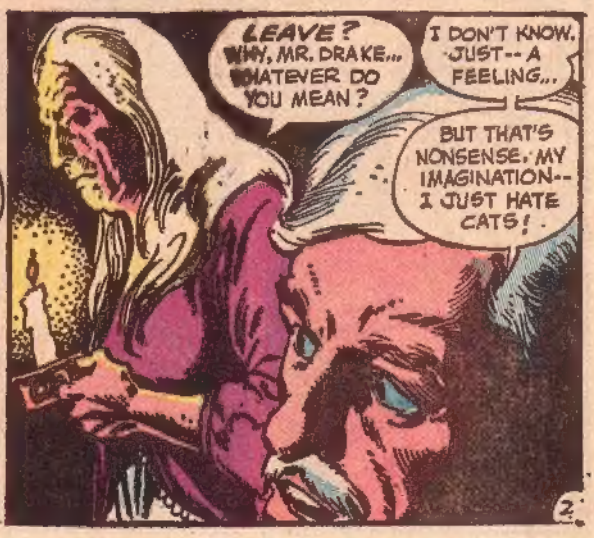
TWILIGHT OF THE CAT
EEEEEOOOOH
AHHOOH
"IT WAS LATE, HOURS PAST SUNSET, ON A NIGHT WASHED COLD BY ENDLESS RAIN. I'D BEEN DRIVING FOR HOURS. IT WAS MY FIRST TRIP UP-STATE... AND I FOUND MYSELF ON A LONELY ROAD THAT LED TO AN ANCIENT HOUSE-- AND A MEETING WITH DESTINY."
LORD... WHAT WAS THAT?
SCRIPT BY: GERRY CONWAY
ART BY: ERNIE CHUA

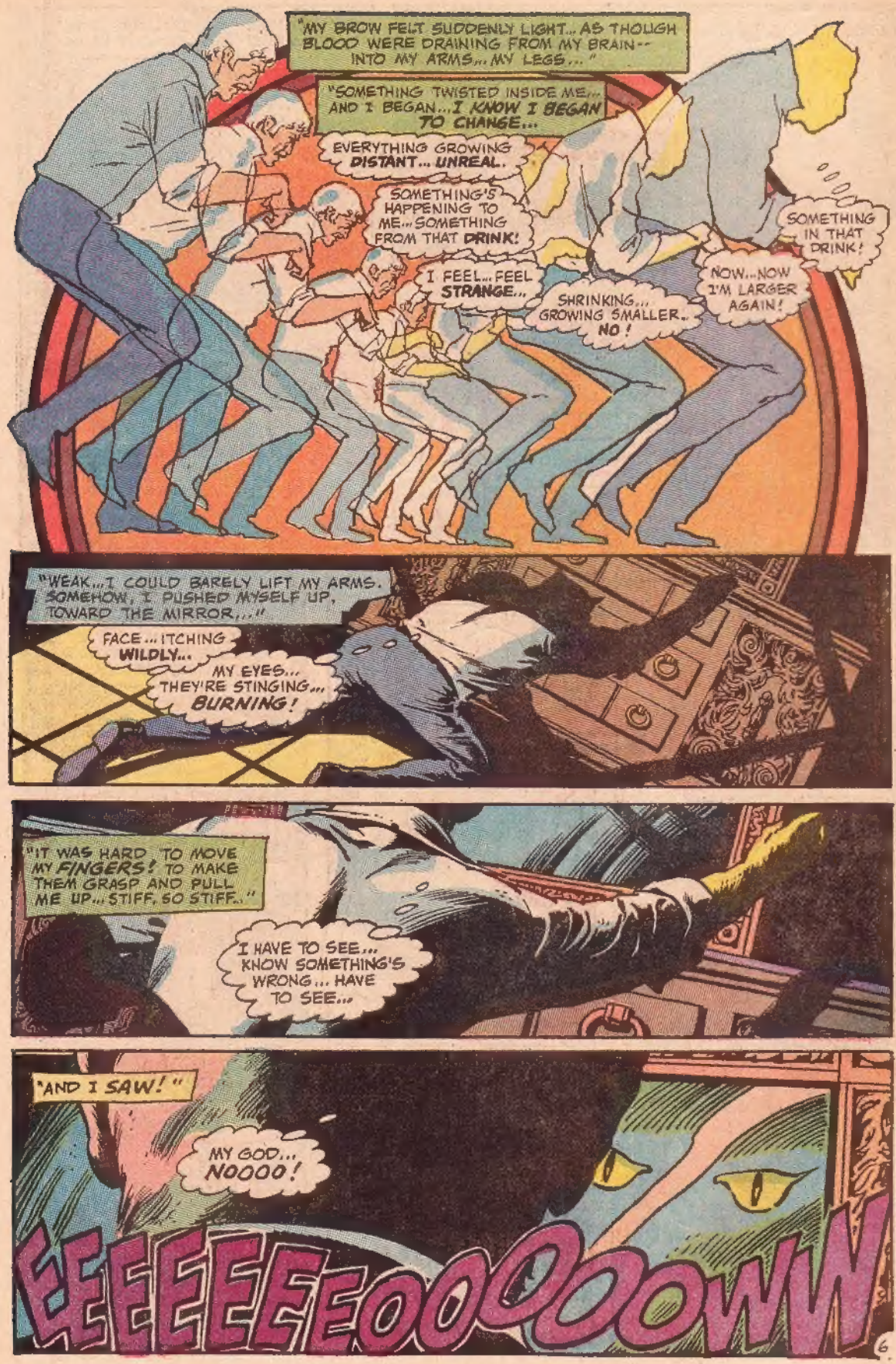
BLASTED LONELY SPOT. WONDER WHY I EVER TOOK THIS ASSIGNMENT?
BUT THEN, I'VE ALWAYS WONDERED WHY I EVER BECAME AN ARTIST!
MY ABILITY TO PAINT IS A CURSE!

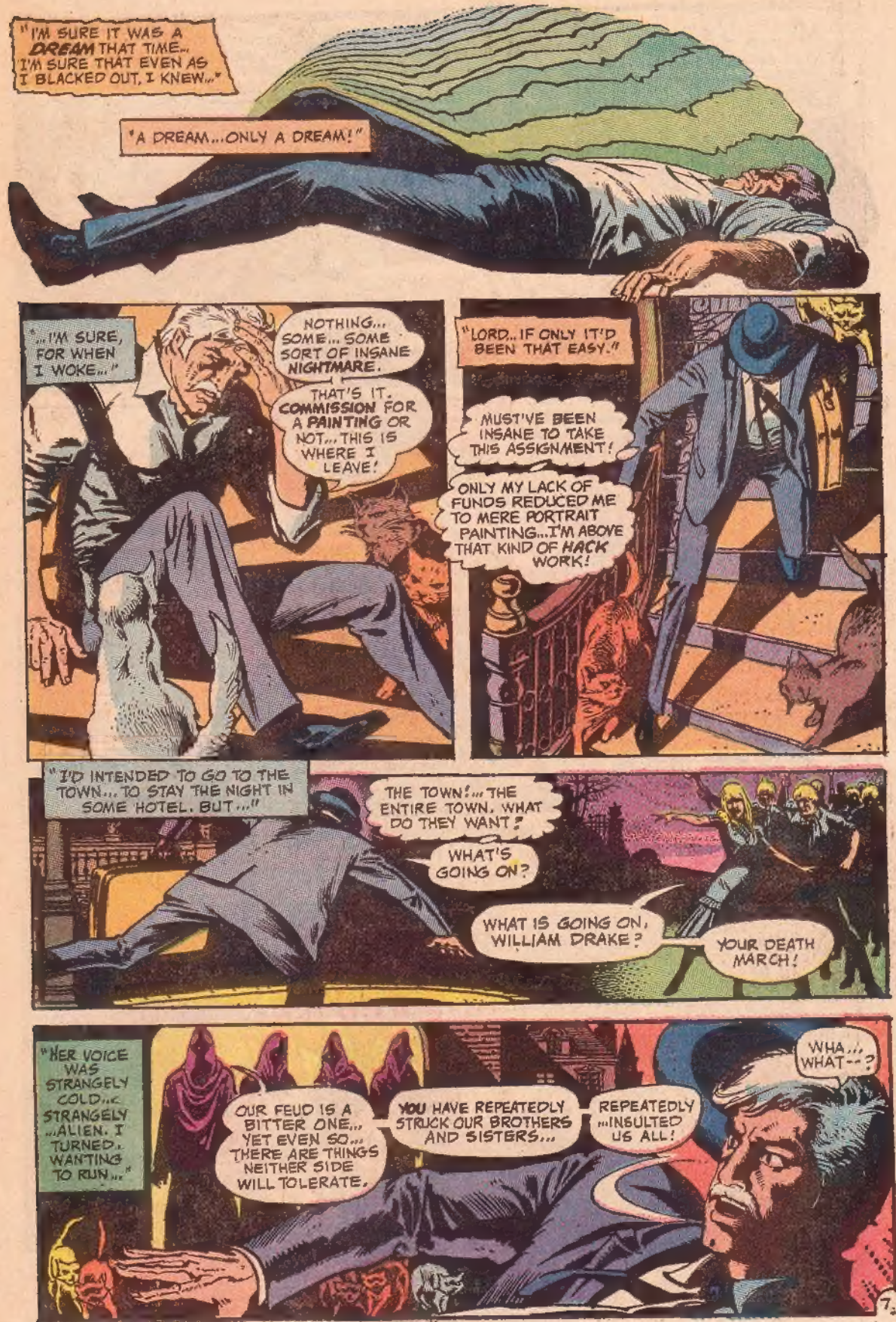
"I KNOCKED... THREE TIMES... AND THEN... SHE ANSWERED."



AYE. WE'VE NO FEEDIN' FOR THE LIKES OF YOU.
ANYONE WHAT'D STAY AT THE McGRAW SISTERS' PLACE--DUNNA DESERVE TO EAT!
GO ON...GET BACK TO THOSE VIXENS...
...OR YOU'LL FIND YOURSELF IN FINE TROUBLE, MY FRIEND.
WHOA...HOLD ON! WHAT'S WRONG WITH THE McGRAWS?
IF YOU DON'T KNOW...THEN LEAVE NOW...
LEAVE...BEFORE YOU FIND THE TRUTH OF THOSE HELL-BORN WITCHES.
FOR NIGH ON FORTY YEARS THERE'S BEEN A FEUD 'TWEEN US AND THEM...
...AND THEY'RE THE LAST ONES LEFT.
BUT...!
"THEY SAID NOTHING MORE, AS ONE, THEY SURGED FORWARD..."
"...AS ONE...THEY PUSHED ME OUT..."
WAIT...!
YOU'D BEST RUN, STRANGER...
IF'N THOSE DEMON-SISTERS DON'T TAKE YOU...WE WILL!
GONE. THEY MOVED SO QUICKLY...SO VICIOUSLY.
WHAT--WHAT SORT OF FEUD IS THIS ...AND HOW DID I GET INVOLVED?
"QUESTIONS REPEATED WHEN I GOT BACK TO OLD LADY McGRAW'S HOUSE..."
"THE COLD WIND WAS SILENT, IN A WAY... IT PROVIDED NO ANSWERS ...ASKED ONLY MORE QUESTIONS..."
YOU WENT TO THE VILLAGE? YOU ABYSMAL DOLT!
IF YOU'D WANTED FOOD... YOU COULD'VE ASKED. NOW YOU'VE SOILED YOURSELF...
YOU'VE BETRAYED OUR HOSPITALITY...

SEE? A PLACE WAS MADE READY FOR YOU...
FOOD WAS SET... DINNER PREPARED. ALL WAITED ON YOUR GOOD FAITH.
A FINE GUEST YOU ARE, SIR!
I...!
SAY NOTHING... OR YOU'LL FIRE ME ANEW.
I'M... I'M SORRY! I DIDN'T KNOW!
YOU WANTED FOOD? TAKE THIS--AND BE THANKFUL YOU'RE NOT OUT ON YOUR HEEL.
"SHE LEFT WITHOUT WAITING FOR AN ANSWER..."
"I WENT TO MY ROOM, CONFUSED AND ANGRY... I TRIED TO EAT BUT..."
EEEOOOOW
THAT CAT!
IT DOESN'T STOP... NEVER STOPS STALKING ME. WHAT DO YOU WANT, BLAST IT?
WHAT DO YOU WANT?
WON'T ANSWER? THEN GO AWAY! GET OUT!
KRAK
"I SAT THERE SEETHING WITH RAGE... AND THEN... I FELT THE SUDDEN CHANGE WITHIN ME. EVERYTHING SEEMED TO DISSOLVE BEFORE ME... I FELT MYSELF SCREAM..."
MY HANDS... WHAT HAPPENED...
MY HANDS!
5


"MY BROW FELT SUDDENLY LIGHT... AS THOUGH BLOOD WERE DRAINING FROM MY BRAIN-- INTO MY ARMS... MY LEGS..."
"SOMETHING TWISTED INSIDE ME... AND I BEGAN... I KNOW I BEGAN TO CHANGE..."
EVERYTHING GROWING DISTANT... UNREAL.
SOMETHING'S HAPPENING TO ME... SOMETHING FROM THAT DRINK!
I FEEL... FEEL STRANGE...
SHRINKING... GROWING SMALLER.. NO!
NOW... NOW I'M LARGER AGAIN!
SOMETHING IN THAT DRINK!
"WEAK... I COULD BARELY LIFT MY ARMS. SOMEHOW, I PUSHED MYSELF UP, TOWARD THE MIRROR..."
FACE... ITCHING WILDLY...
MY EYES... THEY'RE STINGING... BURNING!
"IT WAS HARD TO MOVE MY FINGERS! TO MAKE THEM GRASP AND PULL ME UP... STIFF, SO STIFF.."
I HAVE TO SEE... KNOW SOMETHING'S WRONG... HAVE TO SEE...
"AND I SAW!"
MY GOD... NOOOO!
EEEEEEEOOOOOWW


"I'M SURE IT WAS A DREAM THAT TIME.. I'M SURE THAT EVEN AS I BLACKED OUT, I KNEW.."
"A DREAM...ONLY A DREAM!"
"...I'M SURE, FOR WHEN I WOKE..."
NOTHING... SOME... SOME SORT OF INSANE NIGHTMARE.
THAT'S IT. COMMISSION FOR A PAINTING OR NOT... THIS IS WHERE I LEAVE!
"LORD.. IF ONLY IT'D BEEN THAT EASY."
MUST'VE BEEN INSANE TO TAKE THIS ASSIGNMENT!
ONLY MY LACK OF FUNDS REDUCED ME TO MERE PORTRAIT PAINTING...I'M ABOVE THAT KIND OF HACK WORK!
"I'D INTENDED TO GO TO THE TOWN... TO STAY THE NIGHT IN SOME HOTEL. BUT..."
THE TOWN!... THE ENTIRE TOWN. WHAT DO THEY WANT?
WHAT'S GOING ON?
WHAT IS GOING ON, WILLIAM DRAKE?
YOUR DEATH MARCH!
"HER VOICE WAS STRANGELY COLD...STRANGELY ...ALIEN. I TURNED. WANTING TO RUN.."
OUR FEUD IS A BITTER ONE... YET EVEN SO... THERE ARE THINGS NEITHER SIDE WILL TOLERATE.
YOU HAVE REPEATEDLY STRUCK OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS...
REPEATEDLY ...INSULTED US ALL!
WHA... WHAT--?

YOUR FRIEND WAS TO SEND US AN ARTIST... AS PAYMENT FOR HIS RELEASE.
BUT... PERHAPS HE WAS NO FRIEND...
FOR HE GAVE US ONE... WHO HATES OUR KIND.
Y-YOUR KIND...?
"I BEGAN TO REALIZE... HER EYES... CAT'S EYES..."...
MAD... YOU'RE ALL MAD. YOU CAN'T DO ANYTHING...
TELL HER... SHE... CAN'T...?
THOUGH THOSE WHITE ONES ARE OUR MORTAL ENEMIES...
...IN THIS ALONE, THEY ARE OUR ALLIES!
THEIR EYES... THEIR EYES!
YES, DRAKE... YOU WERE WARNED TO LEAVE US... YET YOU WOULDN'T BE WARNED...
AND SO... FOR WHAT YOU DID TO OUR KIND... YOU MUST SUFFER!
NOOOOO
"IT WAS MADNESS, SHEER MADNESS. I FOUND I COULDN'T MOVE!"
FOR YOUR INSOLENCE... YOU ARE PUNISHED.
FOR YOUR THOUGHTLESSNESS -- YOU MUST PAY!
SO SAY -- THE PEOPLE OF THE CAT!
SO SAY... WE ALL!
"THAT'S HOW IT HAPPENED. ONE MOMENT LIGHT, THE NEXT... DARKNESS. AND WHEN I WOKE..."
EEEOOOW
"MY BODY WAS SWOLLEN, MY EYES IN PAIN. SUDDENLY, I UNDERSTOOD WHAT THE CATS HAD BEEN TRYING TO TELL ME... TOO LATE, I UNDERSTOOD HOW MUCH OUR FATES HAD BEEN ENTWINED."
BLASTED CAT. I CAN'T STAND THE BEASTS, MRS. McGRAW.
EEEOOOW
SUCH A PITY, MR. JAMES.
BILLY, SWEET BILLY... HE'S OUR FAVORITE. WON'T YOU COME -- THIS WAY?
!' AND I TRY... I DO TRY TO WARN THEM... BUT THEY DON'T LISTEN. THEY NEVER DO."
THE END

THERE WERE NO GHOSTS, NO CREEPING HORRORS, IN KELSO'S WORLD. HE WAS A PRACTICAL MAN. BUT EVEN MEN LIKE KELSO SOMETIMES STUMBLE INTO THAT OTHER, SHADOWY WORLD WHERE ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE IF YOU...

Just imagine

Script by. JACK OLECK

Illustrated by. ERNIE H. SANTIAGO

...AND THREE CENTURIES AGO PEOPLE WERE TORTURED IN THIS VERY CHAMBER. JUST IMAGINE IT, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN--

IMAGINE, IMAGINE! IF I HAD AN IMAGINATION I WOULDN'T BE HERE! I'D HAVE BEEN ABLE TO IMAGINE HOW DULL IT WOULD BE!

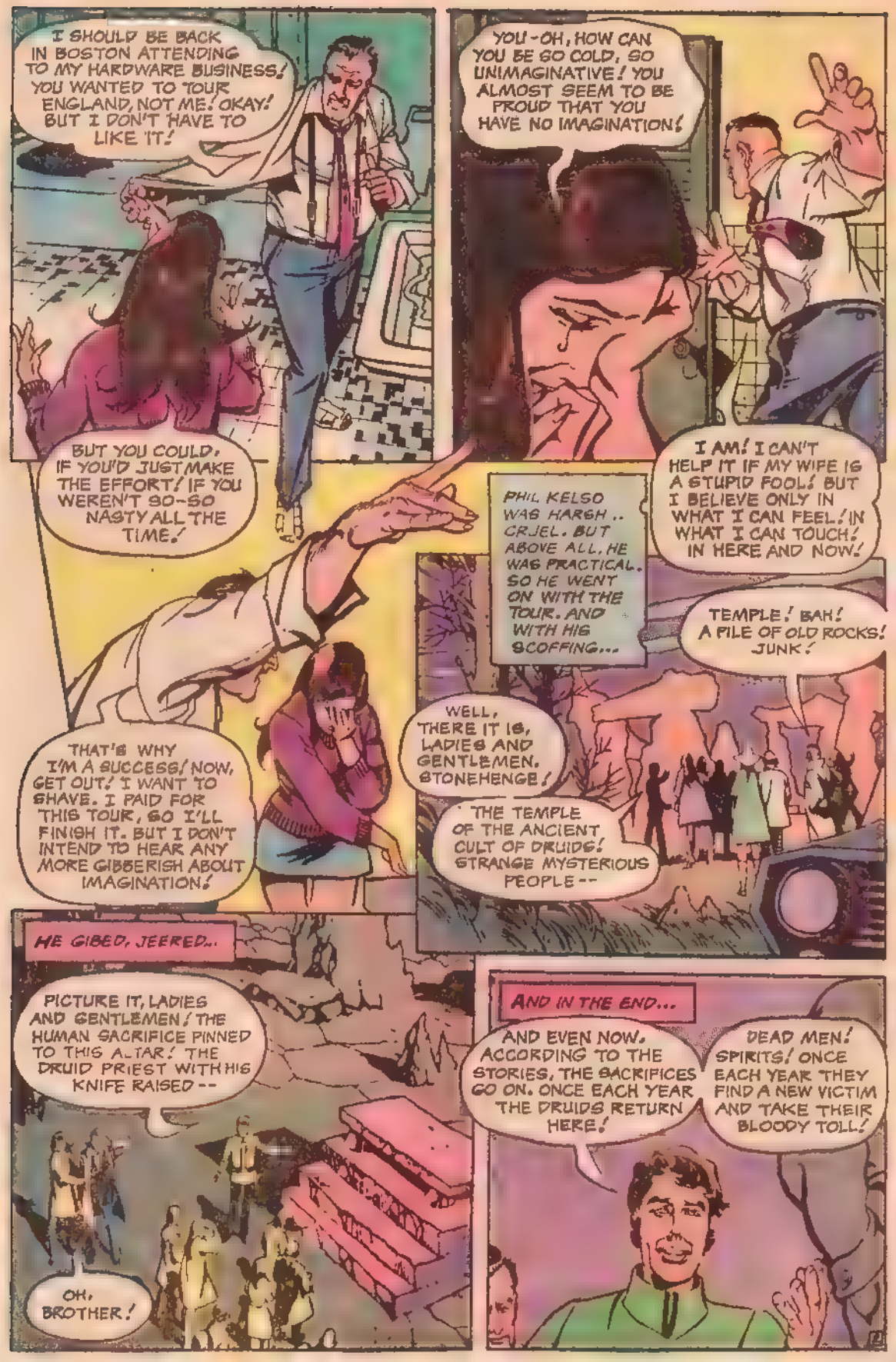
PHIL! CAN'T YOU BE PLEASANT JUST THIS ONCE? PLEASE. EVERYONE'S LOOKING AT US.

EVERYONE? THOSE FOOLS WHO BELIEVE IN GHOSTS AND WITCHES? LET 'EM LOOK! I'M GOING BACK TO THE HOTEL!

IF PHIL KELSO HAD BEEN ANYTHING BUT WHAT HE WAS, IT MIGHT NEVER HAVE HAPPENED. BUT HE WAS WHAT HE WAS. HE HAD NO USE FOR RELICS, FOR THE PAST...

PHIL, I KNOW YOU DON'T WANT TO TALK ABOUT IT, BUT- WON'T YOU AT LEAST TRY? WE'VE PLANNED THIS VACATION FOR SO LONG--

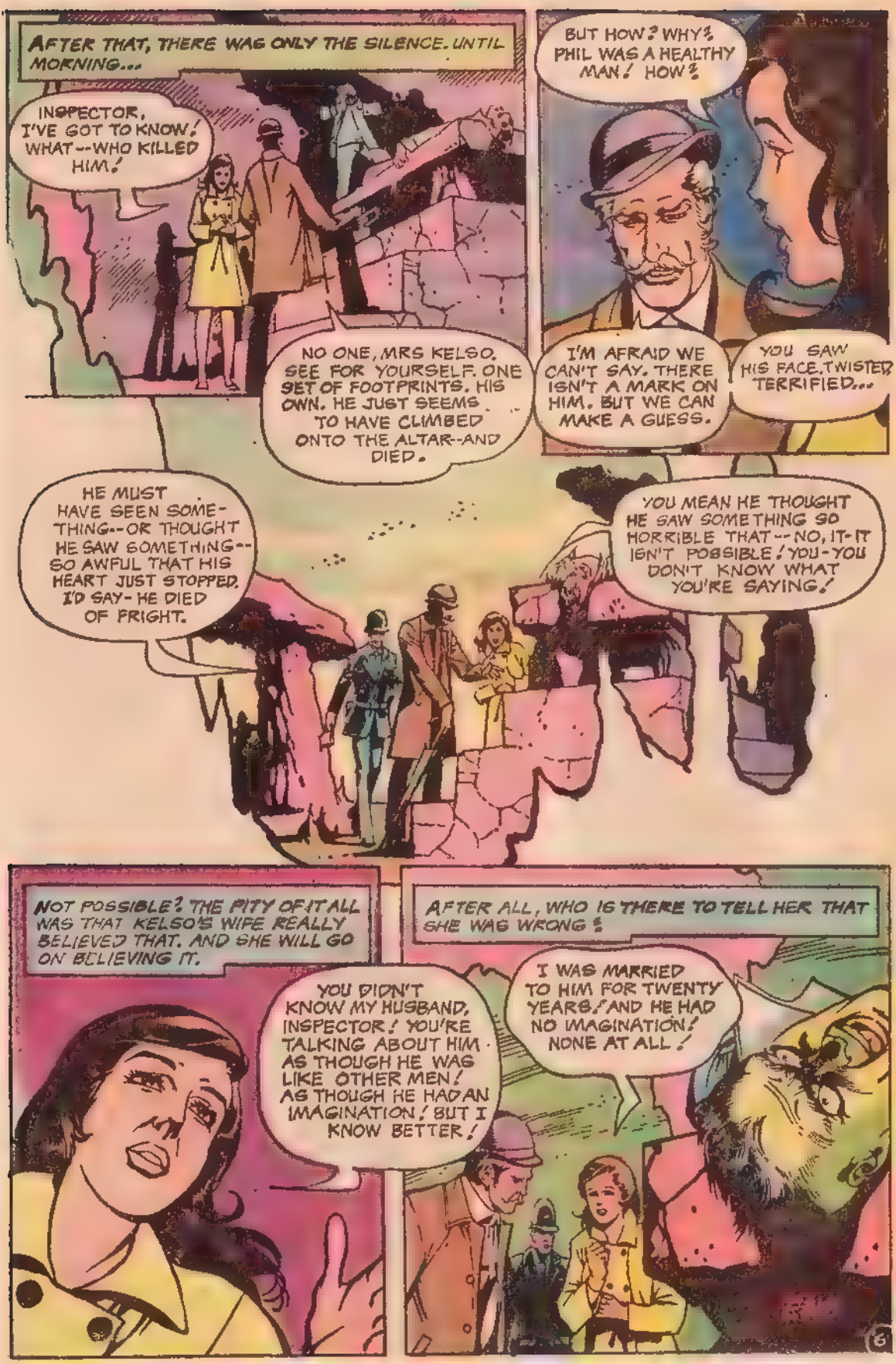
YOU MEAN YOU PLANNED IT! I'M JUST ALONG FOR THE RIDE!


I SHOULD BE BACK IN BOSTON ATTENDING TO MY HARDWARE BUSINESS! YOU WANTED TO TOUR ENGLAND, NOT ME! OKAY! BUT I DON'T HAVE TO LIKE IT!
YOU - OH, HOW CAN YOU BE SO COLD, SO UNIMAGINATIVE! YOU ALMOST SEEM TO BE PROUD THAT YOU HAVE NO IMAGINATION!
BUT YOU COULD, IF YOU'D JUST MAKE THE EFFORT! IF YOU WEREN'T SO-SO NASTY ALL THE TIME!
I AM! I CAN'T HELP IT IF MY WIFE IS A STUPID FOOL! BUT I BELIEVE ONLY IN WHAT I CAN FEEL! IN WHAT I CAN TOUCH! IN HERE AND NOW!
PHIL KELSO WAS HARSH .. CRUEL. BUT ABOVE ALL, HE WAS PRACTICAL. SO HE WENT ON WITH THE TOUR. AND WITH HIS SCOFFING...
TEMPLE! BAH! A PILE OF OLD ROCKS! JUNK!
THAT'S WHY I'M A SUCCESS! NOW, GET OUT! I WANT TO SHAVE. I PAID FOR THIS TOUR, SO I'LL FINISH IT. BUT I DON'T INTEND TO HEAR ANY MORE GIBBERISH ABOUT IMAGINATION!
WELL, THERE IT IS, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN. STONEHENGE!
THE TEMPLE OF THE ANCIENT CULT OF DRUIDS! STRANGE MYSTERIOUS PEOPLE --
HE GIBED, JEERED..
PICTURE IT, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN! THE HUMAN SACRIFICE PINNED TO THIS ALTAR! THE DRUID PRIEST WITH HIS KNIFE RAISED --
OH, BROTHER!
AND IN THE END...
AND EVEN NOW, ACCORDING TO THE STORIES, THE SACRIFICES GO ON. ONCE EACH YEAR THE DRUIDS RETURN HERE!
DEAD MEN! SPIRITS! ONCE EACH YEAR THEY FIND A NEW VICTIM AND TAKE THEIR BLOODY TOLL!

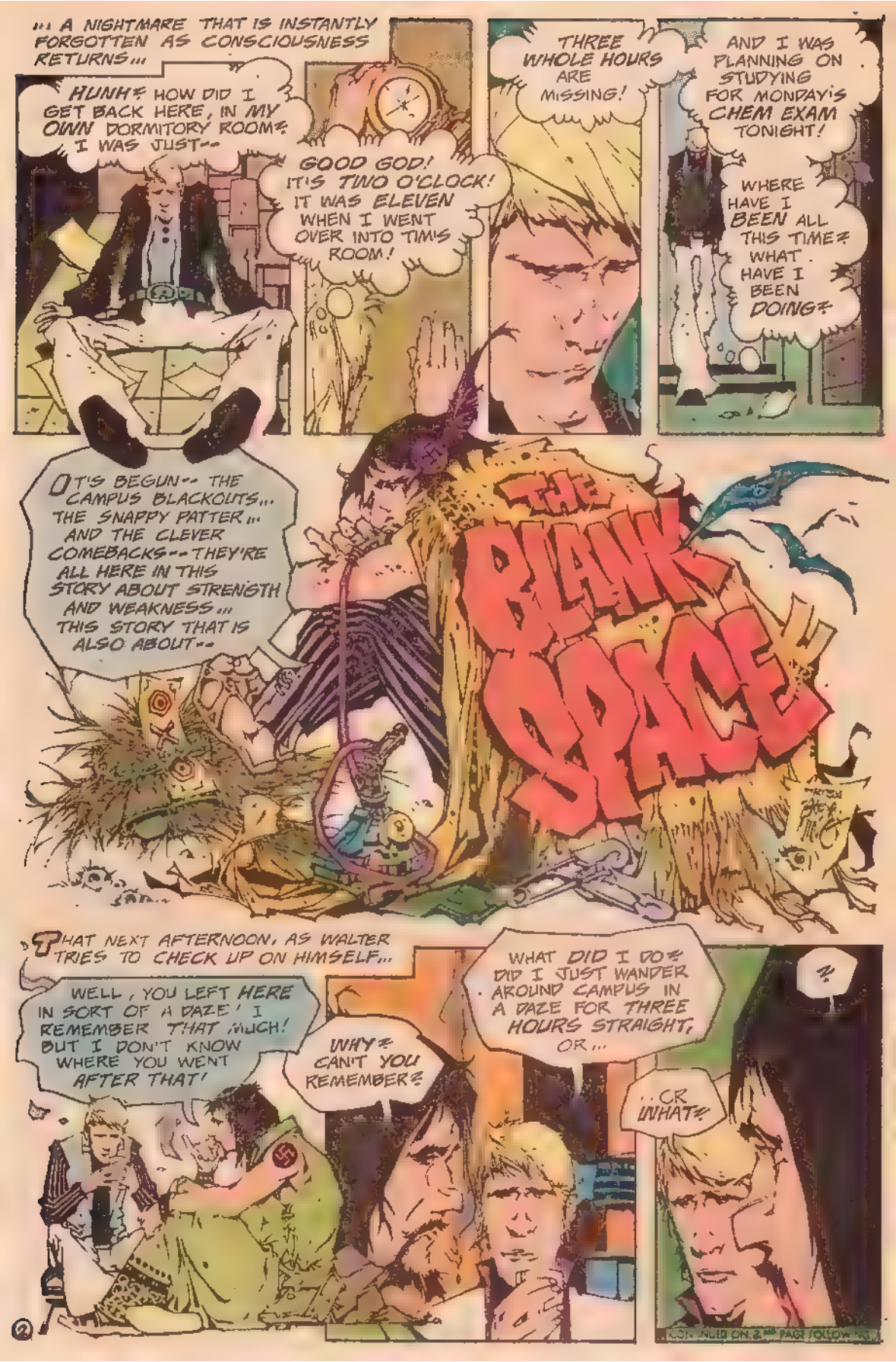
PERHAPS YOU FIND THAT HARD TO BELIEVE. BUT THE PEOPLE WHO LIVE NEARBY WILL SWEAR--
THE PEOPLE WHO LIVE NEAR HERE MUST BE IDIOTS! OF ALL THE HALF-BAKED, IDIOTIC NONSENSE--
PHIL! PLEASE! YOU'RE ANNOYING EVERYONE--
EVEN THEN, IT MIGHT NOT HAVE HAPPENED IF ONLY KELSO'S WIFE HAD GONE WITH HIM. BUT SHE DID NOT. SHE'D HAD ENOUGH OF HIS HARSHNESS, ENOUGH OF HIS PRACTICALITY...
REALLY! WELL, ISN'T THAT JUST TOO BAD! DRUIDS! SPIRITS! I DON'T BELIEVE IN SPOOKS! YOU STAY AND LISTEN TO THIS BUNK IF YOU WANT TO! I'LL BE BACK WHEN IT'S OVER!
KELSO WALKED ALONE, AND THE AFTERNOON WAS WARM...
FOOLS-- STUPID FOOLS--
IN TIME, HE SAT DOWN TO REST. HE SLEPT. AND WHEN AWAKENED...
WHAT IN--IT'S NIGHT! I MUST HAVE BEEN ASLEEP FOR HOURS! AND IT'S STARTING TO RAIN! OF ALL THE BLASTED LUCK--

IT WAS A DRENCHED, ANGRY MAN WHO RETURNED TO STONEHENGE, WHO GROPED HIS WAY THROUGH ANCIENT STONES...
GONE--THEY'RE GONE! THEY PROBABLY COULDN'T FIND ME, SO THEY JUST LEFT ME! AND I DON'T KNOW THE WAY BACK. I'VE GOT TO FIND SHELTER!
THEY'LL HEAR ABOUT THIS! JUST WAIT! LEAVE ME, WILL THEY? SPIRITS! I'LL GIVE THEM SPIRITS!
RAGING, KELSO HUDDLED AGAINST THE RAIN. HE CURSED STONEHENGE, AND DRUIDS, AND ALL FOOLS WITH IMAGINATION! AND YET, AFTER A WHILE...
THIS PLACE- IT'S LIKE A GRAVE-YARD. SO QUIET...
AFTER A WHILE, THE SILENCE SEEMED TO BECOME THREATENING, EERIE, SO THAT KELSO WELCOMED THE SOUND.
VOICES--OVER THERE! BY THE ALTAR! PEOPLE! I CAN SEE THEM! I--
WHO'S THERE? WHO THE DEVIL ARE YOU?! AND WHY- WHY ARE YOU WEARING THOSE COSTUMES?

THE FIGURES WERE VAGUE AT FIRST. JUST SHADOWS. AND AT FIRST, KELSO WAS NOT AFRAID. WHAT WAS THERE TO FEAR? BUT THEN...
WHAT IN--LET GO! TAKE YOUR HANDS OFF ME! LET ME GO--
THE ALTAR! THEY'RE CARRYING ME TO THE ALTAR! THEY--DRUIDS! THOSE STORIES--BUT THEY CAN'T BE! THE STORIES WERE JUST STORIES--
JUST STORIES? KELSO TRIED TO BELIEVE THAT! HE TRIED TO BELIEVE THAT THIS WAS JUST SOME MONSTROUS JOKE! UNTIL HE SAW THE KNIFE--
NO! YOU--YOU WOULDN'T! YOU'RE JUST TRYING TO FRIGHTEN ME--THE OTHERS! THEY PUT YOU UP TO THIS, DIDN'T THEY? TO GET EVEN--
THAT WAS. WHEN THE REAL FEAR CAME. THE TERRIBLE, CHOKING FEAR THAT DISSOLVED INTO THE AGONY OF SILENCE AS THE KNIFE PLUNGED DOWNWARD...
YAAAAA


AFTER THAT, THERE WAS ONLY THE SILENCE. UNTIL MORNING...
INSPECTOR, I'VE GOT TO KNOW! WHAT--WHO KILLED HIM!
NO ONE, MRS KELSO. SEE FOR YOURSELF. ONE SET OF FOOTPRINTS. HIS OWN. HE JUST SEEMS TO HAVE CLIMBED ONTO THE ALTAR--AND DIED.
BUT HOW? WHY? PHIL WAS A HEALTHY MAN! HOW?
I'M AFRAID WE CAN'T SAY. THERE ISN'T A MARK ON HIM. BUT WE CAN MAKE A GUESS.
YOU SAW HIS FACE. TWISTED TERRIFIED...
HE MUST HAVE SEEN SOMETHING--OR THOUGHT HE SAW SOMETHING--SO AWFUL THAT HIS HEART JUST STOPPED. I'D SAY--HE DIED OF FRIGHT.
YOU MEAN HE THOUGHT HE SAW SOMETHING SO HORRIBLE THAT--NO, IT-IT ISN'T POSSIBLE! YOU-YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE SAYING!
NOT POSSIBLE? THE PITY OF IT ALL WAS THAT KELSO'S WIFE REALLY BELIEVED THAT. AND SHE WILL GO ON BELIEVING IT.
AFTER ALL, WHO IS THERE TO TELL HER THAT SHE WAS WRONG?
YOU DIDN'T KNOW MY HUSBAND, INSPECTOR! YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT HIM AS THOUGH HE WAS LIKE OTHER MEN! AS THOUGH HE HAD AN IMAGINATION! BUT I KNOW BETTER!
I WAS MARRIED TO HIM FOR TWENTY YEARS! AND HE HAD NO IMAGINATION! NONE AT ALL!
6

WHAT HAPPENED DURING WALTER'S SOPHOMORE YEAR AT HAROLD UNIVERSITY...
IT'S THE TRUTH, MAN! I'VE REALLY GOT A DATE WITH SPIFFY FOR TOMORROW NIGHT!
BUT... WHAT ABOUT CAROL? I THOUGHT THE TWO OF YOU HAD BEEN SEEING A LOT OF EACH OTHER LATELY! YOU KNOW, LIKE SHE'S YOUR GIRL OR SOMETHING!
OH, SHE IS! BUT SHE'S OFF CAMPUS THIS WEEKEND! WENT HOME TO SEE HER PARENTS!
SO THIS IS MY CHANCE TO SWING! AND... AND...
HEY! IS SOMETHING WRONG? WALTER, WHAT'S COMING OFF?
I... I DON'T KNOW, TIM! EVERYTHING GETTING HAZY! SOME SORT OF BUZZING GOING ON IN MY MIND...
FEEL FAINT! I... ...I'M...
THEN... BLACKOUT! DARKNESS...
... DARKNESS THAT IS FOLLOWED BY DREAMS OF TERROR...
... A NIGHTMARE IN WHICH WALTER HIMSELF IS THE MOST HORRIBLE CREATURE THEREIN...


... A NIGHTMARE THAT IS INSTANTLY FORGOTTEN AS CONSCIOUSNESS RETURNS...
HUNH? HOW DID I GET BACK HERE, IN MY OWN DORMITORY ROOM? I WAS JUST--
GOOD GOD! IT'S TWO O'CLOCK! IT WAS ELEVEN WHEN I WENT OVER INTO TIM'S ROOM!
THREE WHOLE HOURS ARE MISSING!
AND I WAS PLANNING ON STUDYING FOR MONDAY'S CHEM EXAM TONIGHT!
WHERE HAVE I BEEN ALL THIS TIME? WHAT HAVE I BEEN DOING?
O IT'S BEGUN-- THE CAMPUS BLACKOUTS... THE SNAPPY PATTER... AND THE CLEVER COMEBACKS-- THEY'RE ALL HERE IN THIS STORY ABOUT STRENGTH AND WEAKNESS... THIS STORY THAT IS ALSO ABOUT--
THE BLANK SPACE
THAT NEXT AFTERNOON, AS WALTER TRIES TO CHECK UP ON HIMSELF...
WELL, YOU LEFT HERE IN SORT OF A DAZE! I REMEMBER THAT MUCH! BUT I DON'T KNOW WHERE YOU WENT AFTER THAT!
WHY? CAN'T YOU REMEMBER?
WHAT DID I DO? DID I JUST WANDER AROUND CAMPUS IN A DAZE FOR THREE HOURS STRAIGHT, OR...
..OR WHAT?
?!
CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING
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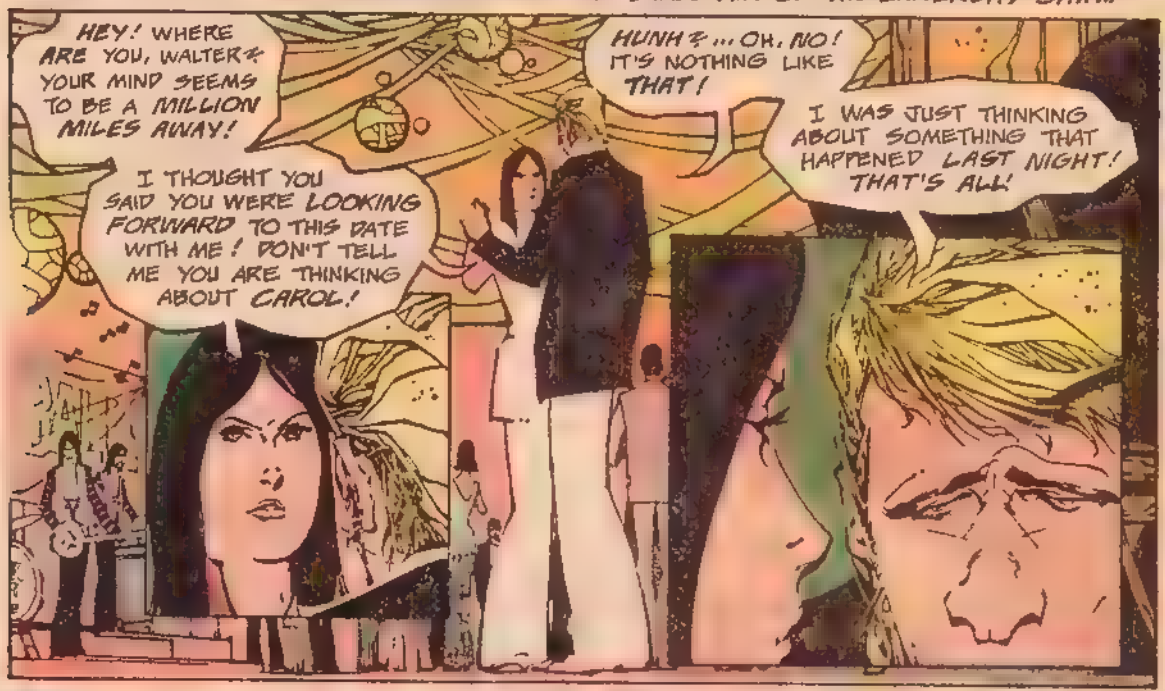
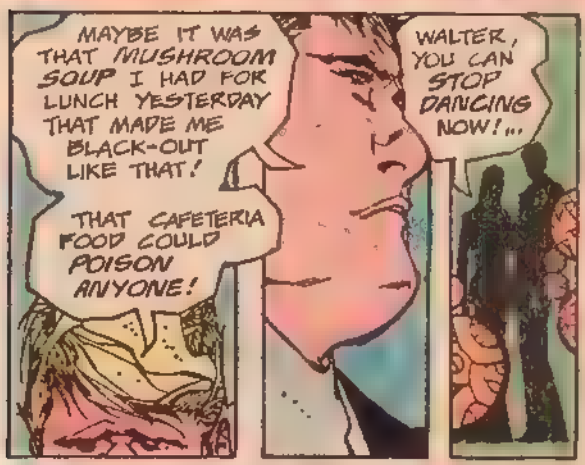
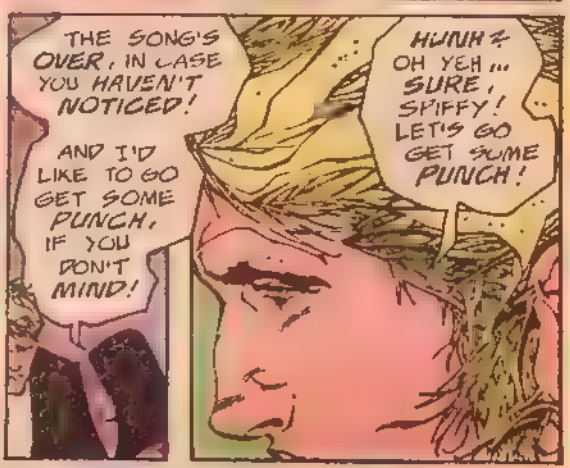
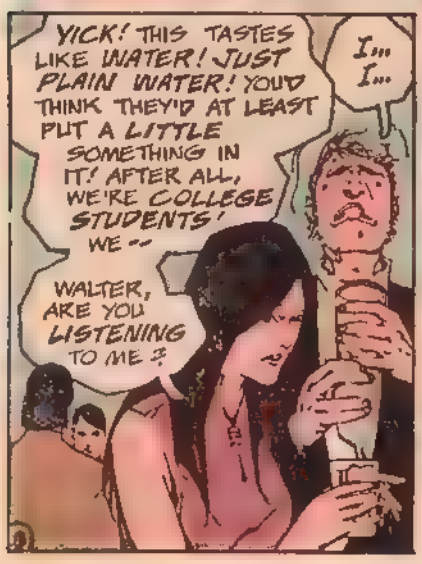
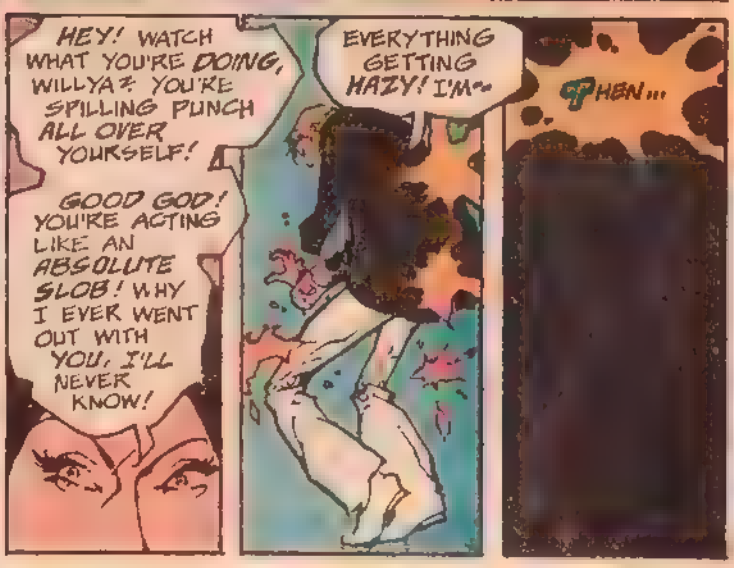
THAT NIGHT IS THE NIGHT OF THE BIG DANCE, AND, AS THE OFTEN OFF-TUNE STRAINS OF A DOWN-AND-OUT DANCE BAND FILL THE STALE AIR OF THE UNIVERSITY GYM...

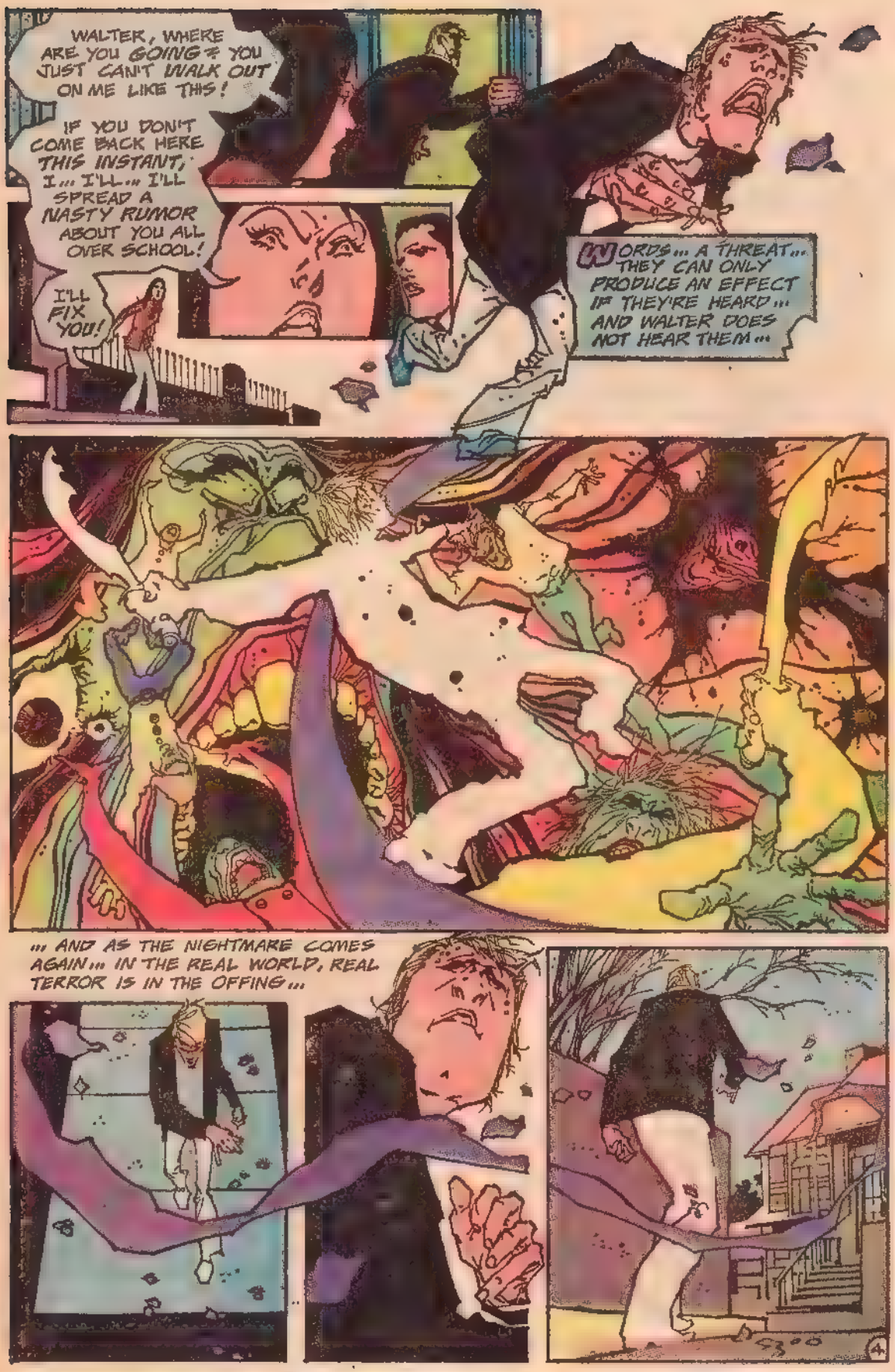

HEY! WHERE ARE YOU, WALTER? YOUR MIND SEEMS TO BE A MILLION MILES AWAY!
I THOUGHT YOU SAID YOU WERE LOOKING FORWARD TO THIS DATE WITH ME! DON'T TELL ME YOU ARE THINKING ABOUT CAROL!
HUNH? ... OH, NO! IT'S NOTHING LIKE THAT!
I WAS JUST THINKING ABOUT SOMETHING THAT HAPPENED LAST NIGHT! THAT'S ALL!

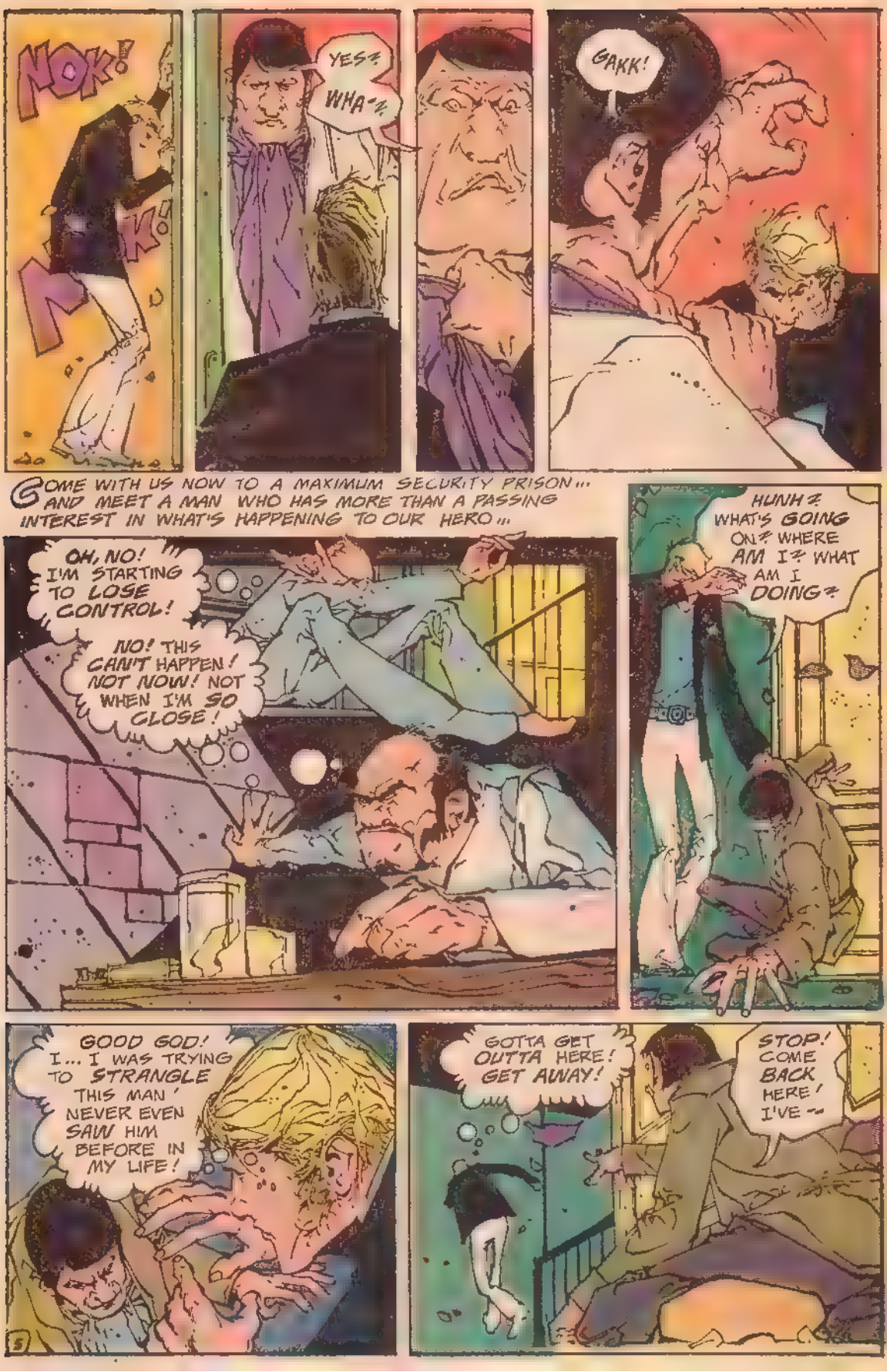

MAYBE IT WAS THAT MUSHROOM SOUP I HAD FOR LUNCH YESTERDAY THAT MADE ME BLACK-OUT LIKE THAT!
THAT CAFETERIA FOOD COULD POISON ANYONE!
WALTER, YOU CAN STOP DANCING NOW!..

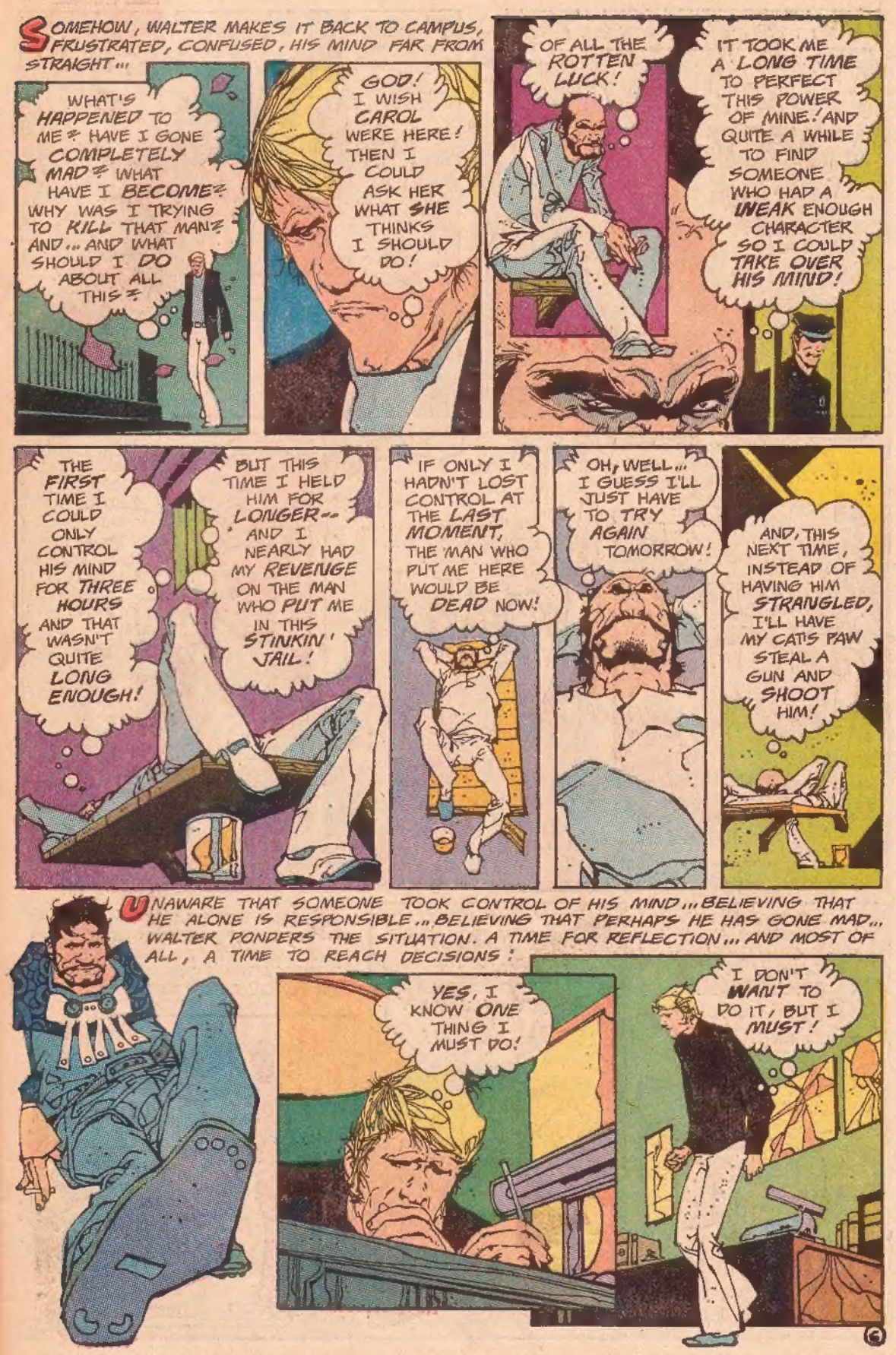

THE SONG'S OVER, IN CASE YOU HAVEN'T NOTICED!
AND I'D LIKE TO GO GET SOME PUNCH, IF YOU DON'T MIND!
HUNH? OH YEH... SURE, SPIFFY! LET'S GO GET SOME PUNCH!


YICK! THIS TASTES LIKE WATER! JUST PLAIN WATER! YOU'D THINK THEY'D AT LEAST PUT A LITTLE SOMETHING IN IT! AFTER ALL, WE'RE COLLEGE STUDENTS! WE--
I... I...
WALTER, ARE YOU LISTENING TO ME?


HEY! WATCH WHAT YOU'RE DOING, WILLYA? YOU'RE SPILLING PUNCH ALL OVER YOURSELF!
GOOD GOD! YOU'RE ACTING LIKE AN ABSOLUTE SLOB! WHY I EVER WENT OUT WITH YOU, I'LL NEVER KNOW!
EVERYTHING GETTING HAZY! I'M--
THEN...


WALTER, WHERE ARE YOU GOING? YOU JUST CAN'T WALK OUT ON ME LIKE THIS!
IF YOU DON'T COME BACK HERE THIS INSTANT, I... I'LL... I'LL SPREAD A NASTY RUMOR ABOUT YOU ALL OVER SCHOOL!
I'LL FIX YOU!
WORDS... A THREAT... THEY CAN ONLY PRODUCE AN EFFECT IF THEY'RE HEARD... AND WALTER DOES NOT HEAR THEM...
... AND AS THE NIGHTMARE COMES AGAIN... IN THE REAL WORLD, REAL TERROR IS IN THE OFFING...
4


NOK!
K!
YES?
WHA-?
GAKK!
COME WITH US NOW TO A MAXIMUM SECURITY PRISON... AND MEET A MAN WHO HAS MORE THAN A PASSING INTEREST IN WHAT'S HAPPENING TO OUR HERO...
OH, NO! I'M STARTING TO LOSE CONTROL!
NO! THIS CAN'T HAPPEN! NOT NOW! NOT WHEN I'M SO CLOSE!
HUNH? WHAT'S GOING ON? WHERE AM I? WHAT AM I DOING?
GOOD GOD! I... I WAS TRYING TO STRANGLE THIS MAN! NEVER EVEN SAW HIM BEFORE IN MY LIFE!
GOTTA GET OUTTA HERE! GET AWAY!
STOP! COME BACK HERE! I'VE--
5


SOMEHOW, WALTER MAKES IT BACK TO CAMPUS, FRUSTRATED, CONFUSED, HIS MIND FAR FROM STRAIGHT...
WHAT'S HAPPENED TO ME? HAVE I GONE COMPLETELY MAD? WHAT HAVE I BECOME? WHY WAS I TRYING TO KILL THAT MAN? AND... AND WHAT SHOULD I DO ABOUT ALL THIS?
GOD! I WISH CAROL WERE HERE! THEN I COULD ASK HER WHAT SHE THINKS I SHOULD DO!
OF ALL THE ROTTEN LUCK!
IT TOOK ME A LONG TIME TO PERFECT THIS POWER OF MINE! AND QUITE A WHILE TO FIND SOMEONE WHO HAD A WEAK ENOUGH CHARACTER SO I COULD TAKE OVER HIS MIND!
THE FIRST TIME I COULD ONLY CONTROL HIS MIND FOR THREE HOURS AND THAT WASN'T QUITE LONG ENOUGH!
BUT THIS TIME I HELD HIM FOR LONGER-- AND I NEARLY HAD MY REVENGE ON THE MAN WHO PUT ME IN THIS STINKIN' JAIL!
IF ONLY I HADN'T LOST CONTROL AT THE LAST MOMENT, THE MAN WHO PUT ME HERE WOULD BE DEAD NOW!
OH, WELL... I GUESS I'LL JUST HAVE TO TRY AGAIN TOMORROW!
AND, THIS NEXT TIME, INSTEAD OF HAVING HIM STRANGLED, I'LL HAVE MY CAT'S PAW STEAL A GUN AND SHOOT HIM!
UNAWARE THAT SOMEONE TOOK CONTROL OF HIS MIND... BELIEVING THAT HE ALONE IS RESPONSIBLE... BELIEVING THAT PERHAPS HE HAS GONE MAD... WALTER PONDERS THE SITUATION. A TIME FOR REFLECTION... AND MOST OF ALL, A TIME TO REACH DECISIONS!
YES, I KNOW ONE THING I MUST DO!
I DON'T WANT TO DO IT, BUT I MUST!

THAT NEXT MORNING, CAROL RETURNS FROM THE WEEKEND WITH HER PARENTS...
HI, WALTER! DID YOU MISS ME?
LISTEN, CAROL... I'VE GOT TO TALK TO YOU!
WE'VE GOT TO STOP GOING TOGETHER!
WHAT?! BUT WHY? WHAT HAVE I--
OH, NO! IT'S NOTHING YOU'VE DONE! IT'S ME!
SOMETHING'S HAPPENED TO ME! I THINK I'M LOSING MY MIND! I'VE BECOME A POTENTIAL KILLER!
I MAY GET YOU INTO ALL SORTS OF TROUBLE IF WE STAY TOGETHER! AND ABOVE ALL, I DON'T WANT TO DO THAT!
I... I DON'T UNDERSTAND! BUT, WALTER, I DON'T CARE WHAT YOU'VE BECOME!
I DON'T WANT YOU HANGING AROUND WITH A POTENTIAL KILLER! IT'S DANGEROUS!
SURE, I'D LIKE US TO KEEP GOING TOGETHER! BUT THAT'S BECAUSE I'M WEAK AND I NEED YOU!
AND NOW, I'VE GOT TO BE STRONG! THIS IS SOMETHING THAT I MUST FACE ALONE!
BUT...
SOMETIMES, LOVE IS LETTING GO. AND PERHAPS, BREAKING OFF WITH HER IS THE FIRST TRULY LOVING THING WALTER HAS DONE FOR CAROL...
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HOWEVER, THAT NIGHT...
SOMETHING'S WRONG! I CAN'T GET HOLD OF HIS MIND!
SOMEHOW, HE'S BECOME STRONGER, DEVELOPED A STRONGER CHARACTER -- TOO STRONG FOR ME TO TAKE CONTROL OF HIS MIND!
NOW, IN ORDER TO HAVE MY REVENGE, I'M GOING TO FIND SOMEONE ELSE -- SOMEONE I CAN CONTROL!
AND, LATER THAT NIGHT...
I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS! I DON'T CARE WHAT WALTER'S BECOME...
I STILL WANT HIM! STILL NEED HIM!
MAYBE THAT MEANS I'M WEAK, BUT...
HEY! WHAT'S GOING ON? EVERYTHING GETTING HAZY! I'M --
SO, WALTER THOUGHT HE WAS DOING CAROL A FAVOR BY BREAKING OFF WITH HER, AND NOW LOOK WHAT'S HAPPENED!
OH, WELL...PERHAPS, LIKE WALTER, CAROL HAS ENOUGH HIDDEN STRENGTH TO ULTIMATELY RESIST THE MIND-CONTROL!
PERHAPS EVERYONE HAS HIDDEN STRENGTH -- THE STRENGTH TO RESIST MURDEROUS SUGGESTIONS!
BUT... I WONDER!
THE END
NEXT ISSUE ON SALE ON OR ABOUT NOV. 21st!
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Dear Editor:

Dark Mansion is one of my favorite mystery comics. I used to like some of the others, but now I buy only Dark Mansion, House of Secrets, House of Mystery, Sinister House and Witching Hour. The thing I like about Dark Mansion has been the use of long stories. They allow the writer and artist to give better plots and characterization. I understand you are going down in size and price. If you do, that's okay, as long as you continue to give top-notch stories.

In your column, you ask for true tales of ESP. Well, I've had several of them, and if you're interested, I'll tell you them.

When I was nine years old, I was playing in my backyard, on the swing my Dad set up for me. Anyway, I fell off the swing and ever since I've had weird premonitions that have *all* come true. There was the time I was in school daydreaming that my Aunt collapsed. I could hear her screaming in pain. I ran out of the class to call my parents and told them what I "saw!" Just on a chance, they called my Aunt and no one was home. They went over, since she was an invalid, and they found her on the floor. She'd had a heart attack. Fortunately, they were able to get her to the hospital in time, and now she's in perfect health again.

Tim Cummings
Gary, Ind.

Dear Editor:

I noticed your letter section concerning true ESP experiences. I never had one, but my sister did, and it saved my life.

I had just attended a wedding of some friends, and watched as they rode off on their honeymoon. The family spoke for awhile, and then we all drifted off in our own directions. I got into my car, and my sister came with us as we were to drive her home. We were about to start when suddenly she yelled for us to stop. She said the brakes had failed. I was about to ignore her when my wife, an ESP nut, said I shouldn't. So rather than pick up speed, I started the car and drove it very slowly. First time I put on the brake, the brakes failed. If I hadn't heeded my wife's request, and my sister's vision, it is conceivable I could have been traveling at 60 miles an hour and crashed—killing us all. As it is, there was no damage to either the car or ourselves. Needless to say, I am now a firm believer in ESP.

Peter Winedig
Ontario, Canada

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Dear Readers:

We thank each and every one of you for sending in your ESP experiences. From time to time we shall continue to publish them. But for now, we would like your letters to concern themselves with our stories. Do you like them? What type of stories do you want to read? Please address all your letters to: Through The Keyhole Of The Dark Mansion, 909 Third Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10022.

HEY, FRIGHT FANS... FEAST YOUR BLOOD-SHOT EYES ON GHOULISH GOINGS-ON IN TODAY'S BEST AND MOST EXCITING MYSTERY MAGS.
THE HOUSE OF MYSTERY
THE PHANTOM STRANGER
THE HOUSE OF SECRETS
SWAMP THING
FORBIDDEN TALES OF DARK MANSION
WEIRD MYSTERY TALES
SLITHER DOWN TO YOUR NEWSSTAND AND GRAB US; IF YOU DON'T, WE MAY GRAB YOU! HAR! HAR! HAR!